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to North Carolina, Massachusetts, New York and New Hampshire (p. 262).

The period from 1870 to the present time is not covered in such a manner as to give a satisfactory knowledge of real developments. This is due in large part to the brevity of the treatment, but also to statements which appear to be hardly accurate. For example the extension of judicial power during this period is due not so much to the development of extra-constitutional limitations as to the reading of natural right theories into constitutional limitations which are themselves indefinite (p. 289 *et seq.*).

In the final chapter, dealing with recent criticisms of judicial power, the part devoted to criticisms by the courts themselves (pp. 313-328) is very well done, but the chapter as a whole is inadequate. The weakening of judicial power came not as a result of dissenting opinions but as a result of the judicial action which occasioned the dissent (p. 315). The Illinois case of 1895 upon hours of labor of women was not reversed (p. 329), however much the view of the later case may differ from that of the earlier. There is no adequate analysis of the movements for the recall of judges and of judicial decisions. The author does not indicate sufficiently that a movement is already well under way among the courts themselves to apply more liberal tests in passing upon the validity of social and industrial legislation (pp. 334, 352).

But a part of one brief chapter is devoted to the rules under which courts act in passing upon the constitutionality of statutes (pp. 173-199); the traditional statements, which to a very large extent do not agree with the facts, are here repeated. Upon judicial control in other countries there is merely an incidental discussion, and no complete or accurate statement of the situation in other countries is given (pp. 2-10, 197).

Upon the whole, it should again be said that the greater part of the book (that dealing with the period before 1830) is of distinct value, while the remainder is of much less importance. The volume does, however, present the best connected account of the origin and development of judicial power in the United States.

W. F. DODD.

*Law, Legislative and Municipal Reference Libraries.* By JOHN B. KAISER. (Boston: Boston Book Company, 1914. Pp. 467.)

In a volume entitled "Law, Legislative and Municipal Reference Libraries," Mr. John B. Kaiser, librarian of the Tacoma public library,

formerly legislative reference librarian of Texas and sociology librarian of the University of Illinois, has brought together a wonderful array of material and has presented it in such a thorough and painstaking manner as to have completely preëmpted the field connected with the subject. The book is complete in scope and accurate in detail and it is right down to the minute of its publication in May, 1914.

A comprehensive book was needed on the subject. Heretofore, library workers in this special field began blindly or upon blind experience. Particularly was this true of law libraries—perhaps the most backward and inefficient in all the range of library activity. Little has been written about the law library and few aids have been provided for law librarians or for law students. Only the most superficial knowledge of the use of the law library has been given in law schools. It is to be hoped that this book in the hands of law librarians and professors of law will bring about a new attitude among law students toward the sources of legal information.

The treatment is concerned with needs and types of law libraries; the kinds of material; and the handling of material, including methods of cataloging and shelving. Court reports, state and federal, and digests, text-books, law periodicals, public documents, statutes, and legal bibliography are explained.

To all law libraries, whether large or small, the book is of great value, while to the students of law and of library methods it is indispensable. It should have the most wholesome effect upon public libraries in lifting them out of their fear that legal works will contaminate their shelves. The book should have contained a plea to public librarians to get acquainted with legal bibliography and to treat law books as a possible part of their reference departments.

The chapters on legislative and municipal reference libraries set forth the large place which these institutions have come to fill and furnishes a guide for the hundreds of new institutions of this sort which are springing up every day in connection with state and city libraries, chambers of commerce, welfare departments, and social and civic clubs.

Again it must be said that the field has been preëmpted. Little can be added either in general discussion or specific aids. The librarian will find everything needed from the discussion of the need of such libraries to the selection of pamphlet holders.

The history of the idea of legislative and municipal reference is given in its application to intelligent legislation; the materials are criticized and bibliographic helps added; the methods of collecting and preserving

material are described in detail and the agencies which help the work receive generous approval; and the actual process of preparing for a legislative session, the drafting of bills, and condensing of information for legislators is outlined. Discussions of the qualifications of librarians, the success and profits of the work, and the methods of coöperative effort are given considerable space.

Valuable appendices are added giving compilations of laws relating to legislative and municipal reference work and bill drafting, lists of legislative reference publications, bibliographies of legislative and municipal reference, and bill drafting besides suggested problems for use in class work in library schools.

If the book has faults we must pass them over in admiration for the completed work. To bring all that the author has brought together within the covers of a single book of 467 pages, is a feat which challenges any adverse criticism. It has blazed a trail and in its description of the purposes, methods and results of these types of special libraries it has greatly facilitated the work of hundreds of other special libraries in business, finance, manufacturing and public affairs. The underlying purpose of all special libraries is to focus knowledge on a given problem. By showing how law, legislative and municipal reference librarians and bureaus may do this all other libraries seeking the same purpose in other fields profit by comparison.

JOHN A. LAPP

*The Neutrality Laws of the United States.* By CHARLES G. FENWICK. (Washington: Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, 1913. Pp. 201.)

The trustees of the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace in 1911 directed the division of international law to examine the neutrality laws of the United States, and to suggest improvements tending to make them more efficient. The result is this book, in which Dr. Fenwick has ably fulfilled the task assigned him. The book must meet to the full the expectations of the trustees, as it does the anticipations of those who look to the endowment to produce work of the highest merit.

The character and scope of neutrality laws is explained, and these are distinguished from the international obligation of neutrality which they are designed to meet. The neutrality laws of a state may or may not conform to the international standard of neutrality. If they exceed that